

1           THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN  
2 EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS  
3 FOLLOWS:

4           1. A method for recovering heavy oil from an underground reservoir,  
5 comprising:

6           (a) injecting steam and producing heated oil and steam condensate  
7 by steam assisted gravity drainage ("SAGD") in a first section of the reservoir  
8 until it is substantially uneconomic to continue doing so;

9           (b) preparing an adjoining section of the reservoir for SAGD;

10          (c) terminating or reducing steam injection into the reservoir first  
11 section;

12          (d) injecting steam and producing heated oil and steam condensate  
13 by SAGD in an adjacent second section of the reservoir; and

14          (e) concurrently with step (d), injecting a non-condensable gas into  
15 the first section to pressurize it and producing residual oil and steam  
16 condensate from said first section.

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18          2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein:

19           the first section is pressurized in step (e) to a pressure about equal with  
20 the steam injection pressure in step (d).